

Ballona Creek Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study



Communities of Practice Planning Conference
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Ballona Creek Study

- *Brief Background*
- *Sponsor and stakeholders*
- *Collaborative Planning Process, and test case for the future*



Ballona Creek Watershed

329 sq. km (81,300 acres)

Cochran Ave.

Sepulveda Wash

Ballona Creek Channel

Centinela Creek

Wetlands

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Ballona Creek Ecosystem Restoration Seeks to..

- 
- *Enhance endangered species habitat*
 - *Create recreational and educational opportunities*
 - *Public Outreach*
 - *Create and improve wetland and riparian habitat quality*
 - *Improve hydrologic/hydraulic processes and connectivity*
 - *Enhance tidal prism*

Natural Conditions/ pre-1920s



Early Ballona Creek and Wetlands

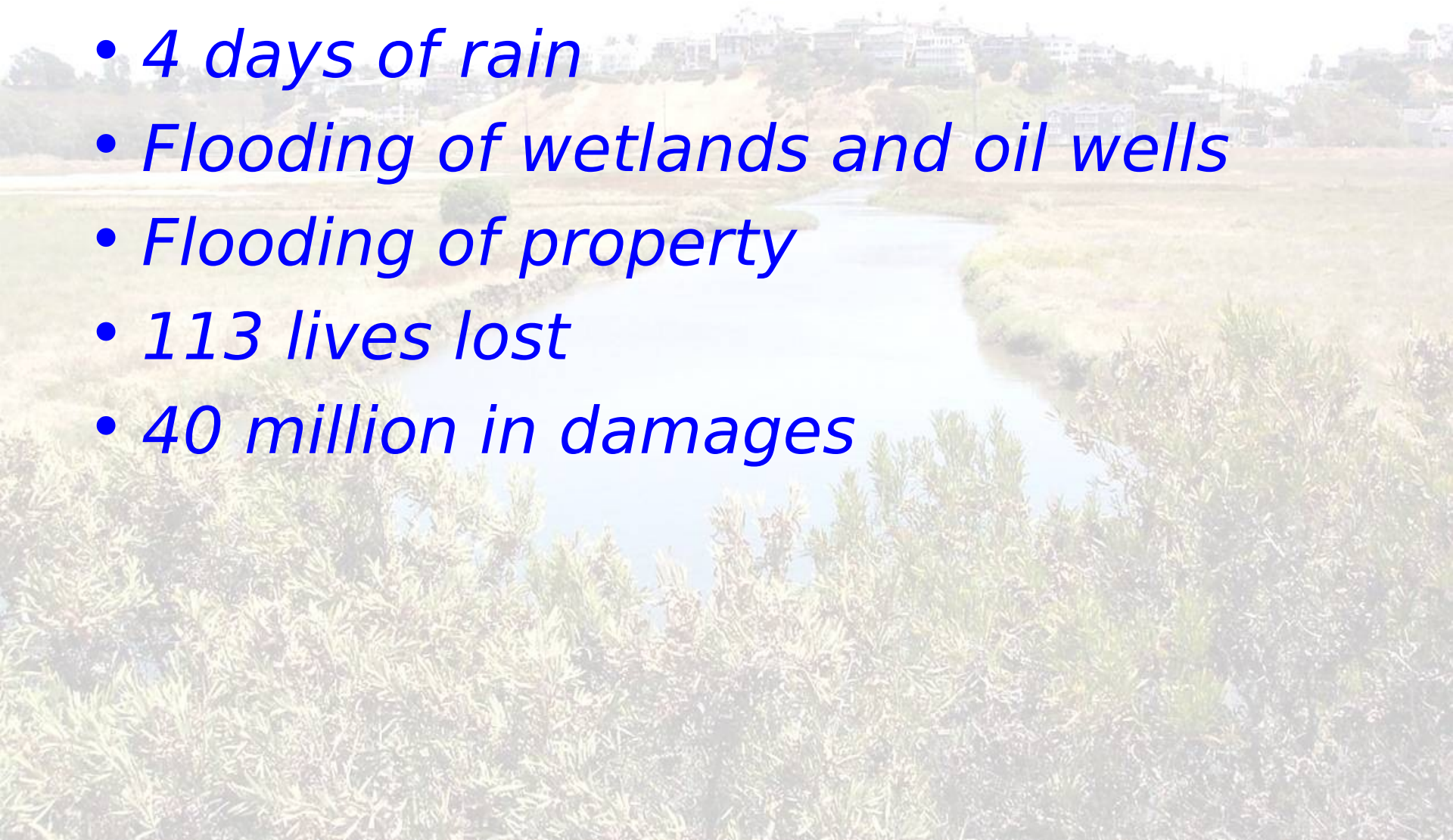


Boating in Lagoons



Famous Flood of 1938

- *4 days of rain*
- *Flooding of wetlands and oil wells*
- *Flooding of property*
- *113 lives lost*
- *40 million in damages*



Corps Response and Activities

- *Corps constructed a concrete storm channel in the early 1940's,*
 - *Severely altered the hydrologic connections between the Creek, lagoons, wetlands, loss of floodplain and riparian habitat*
- *Corps constructed Marina del Rey pleasure harbor in 1957, and the breakwater in 1965.*

Current Conditions



Upper Watershed attractions



Wetlands



Degraded wetlands, due to levies



Fill placed from Harbor construction

Moving right along.. until



- *Reconnaissance report finished, and were poised... to begin the PMP when.... We begin to experience*
- *Sponsor challenges 101*

Sponsor Search?

- *Co. LA Dept. of Beaches and Harbors*
 - *The original Sponsor*
- *Letter of Intent*
 - *Insufficient!!*
- *The Ballona Creek Watershed Taskforce*
 - *To the rescue!!*

Sponsorship and Collaboration

- *The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission decided to take the lead*
- *They have formed relationships, based on Letters of Intent with a group of interested stakeholders who will be supplying in-kind services*
- *There are 8 additional sub-sponsors*

- *Los Angeles Co. Beaches and Harbors*
- *Los Angeles Co. Public Works*
- *City of Los Angeles Public Works*
 - *Southern California Coastal Water Research Project*
- *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy*
- *Baldwin Hills Conservancy*
- *California Coastal Conservancy*
 - *Philip Williams & Associates*

Sub-Sponsors



One Big Happy Family

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

City of Los Angeles

County of Los Angeles

Diane Watson

Baldwin Hills Conservancy

Jane Harman

Culver City

**Santa Monica
Bay Restoration
Commission**

Maxine Waters

**Coastal
Conservancy**

Herding Cats

- **Co. Beaches and Harbors**
 - public access, revenue, maintain harbor, promotional/educational campaigns
- **Co. Public Works**
 - Flood Control, Water Quality
- **Baldwin Hills Conservancy**
 - Recreation, conservation, acquisition
- **Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy**
 - trails, acquisition, habitat, recreation, conservation
- **Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission**
 - Ensure the health of the Bay and the Watershed
- **Culver City-**
 - Self interests,
- **City of Los Angeles**
 - TMDL's, voters, flood protection
- **Coastal Conservancy-**
 - Preserve, restore, and protect coastal resources

Stakeholders

- *Ballona Wetlands Land Trust*
- *Friends of Ballona*
- *Heal the Bay*
- *Wetlands Action Network*
- *Santa Monica Baykeeper*
- *Ballona Creek Renaissance*
- *Los Angeles Co. Bicycle Coalition*
- *Ballona Network*
- *Ballona Wetlands Foundation*
- *Audubon Society*
- *West Bluffs Conservation League*
- *Loyola Marymount University*

How it all works

- *Use existing meetings as much as possible to avoid meeting burn out*
- *POC 's at each agency*
- *Data Sharing*
 - *Web site and Groove (near future) to manage shared documents*
- *Frequent communication*
 - *Phone calls, emails,*

C/B Ratio is greater than 1

Benefits

- *Creek crosses many boundaries*
- *Cost Share*
 - *Combined efforts of sponsors have yielded many products for our study.. Keeping us on schedule*
- *Large stakeholder support, in an area famous for discontent*

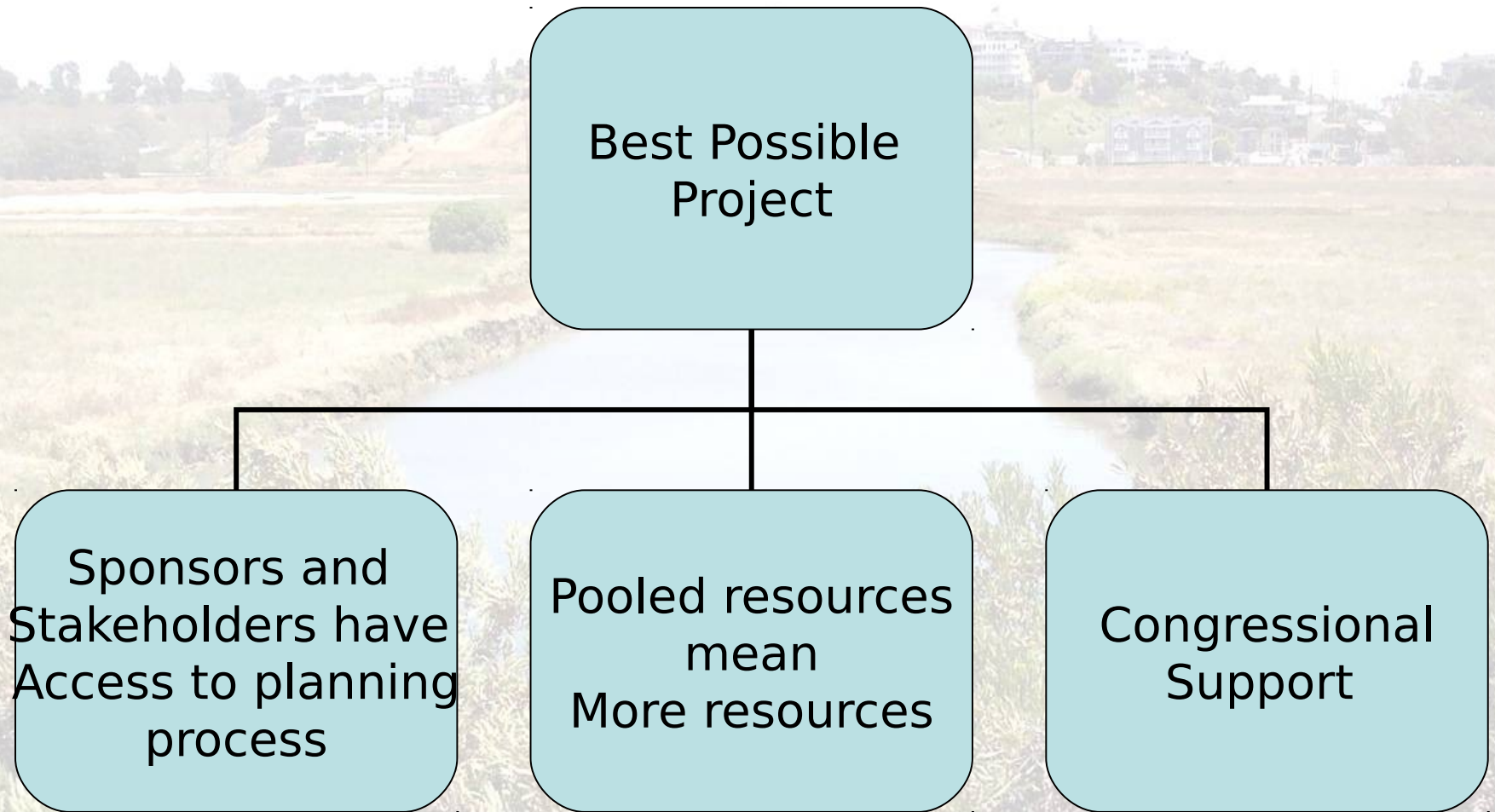
Costs/Challenges

- *Planning Process*
 - *Selection of Model, lengthy process to come to consensus*
 - *Timing*
- *Meeting Burn-out*
 - *Scheduling a meeting can take an act of divine intervention,*
 - *and there are so many*
- *CEQA*
 - *No local partner as of yet*
- *Regional/Watershed Focus*
 - *Working towards the best possible project with such a diverse community*

Project Status

- *Draft Baseline Conditions report for the wetlands – Coastal Conservancy*
- *A Watershed Model HSPF, from SCCWRP and the City*
- *EFDC 3D model for lower watershed – Coastal Conservancy and Corps*
- *HEC-RAS model from prior study with the LA County*

Collaborative Planning



Questions



USACE Proposed Management Units

